


### REMARKS

The amendments to the specification recite the priority of this application and include the amendments to the specification in the parent application. The amendments to the claims include the amendments to the claims in the parent application.

Applicant hereby requests an action on the merits at the earliest opportunity.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 27, 2004—



Michael A. Sartori, Ph. D.

Registration No. 41,289

VENABLE LLP

P.O. Box 34385

Washington, D.C. 20043-9998

Telephone: (202) 344-4000

Telefax: (202) 344-8300

MAS/cu  
DC2-526408